



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Water & Land
House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
Tuesday, February 6, 2024 at 9:05 a.m.

By

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HB 2690 – RELATING TO WATER

Chairs Ichiyama and Lowen, Vice Chairs Poepoe and Cochran, and Members of the Committees:

The University of Hawai'i (UH) supports HB 2690 which seeks to establish a Red Hill Water Alliance Initiative (Red Hill WAI) policy coordinator in the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) and creates a Red Hill remediation special fund.

While the imminent threat of future leaks has been minimized through the defueling of the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility, years of clean up, monitoring, research and policy making will be needed for remediation of the aquifer and the surrounding ecosystem. This will require proper coordination between DLNR, the Department of Health, Honolulu Board of Water Supply, U.S. Navy, Environmental Protection Agency, UH, community organizations, and other state, federal and county agencies.

The Red Hill WAI coordinator and related positions are critical to this effort and the remediation special fund will enable this group to fund necessary efforts in monitoring, research, remediation, public outreach and education, and evaluation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.